

TWIN SPICA

Kou Yaginuma



9

TWIN SPICA

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Kou Yaginuma



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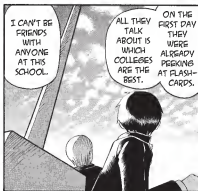


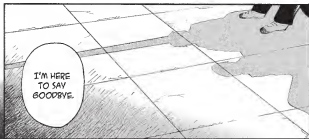
MISSION:42









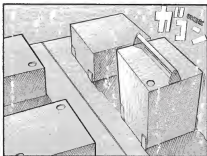
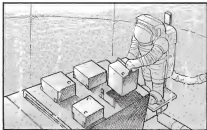
















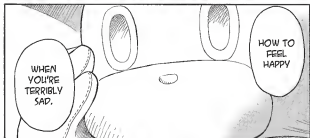
ALL COURSE GENERAL CURRICULUM FINAL EXAMS

	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3	Field 4	Make-up Field
11:00-12:00	English (written)				
12:00-1:00	Math	English (written)	Math	Japanese History	
1:00-2:00	Chemistry	Classical Japanese	Geography	World History	
2:00-3:00			Physics		







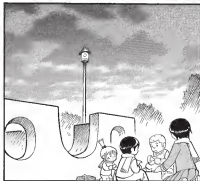






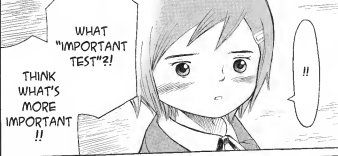












WHAT
"IMPORTANT
TEST"?!

THINK
WHAT'S
MORE
IMPORTANT
!!

!!



WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
IS HOW
YOU FEEL
RIGHT
NOW!

STOP
WORRYING
ABOUT WHAT
A DEAD KID
WILL THINK
!!

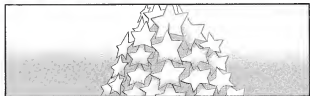
SO WHAT
IF HE JUST
LOOKS
LIKE HIM?



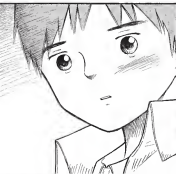
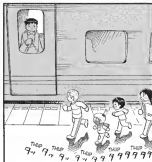
TELL
HIM
YOU
LIKE
HIM

IF
YOU
LIKE
HIM!!

JUST
BE
YOUR-
SELF
AND

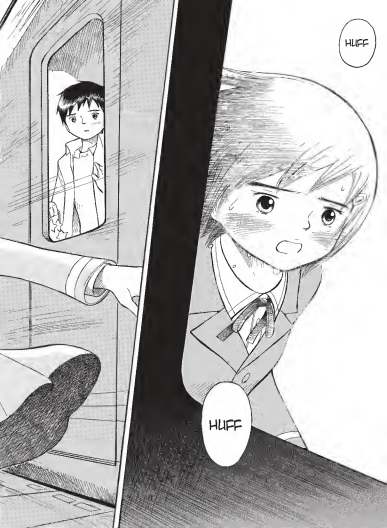




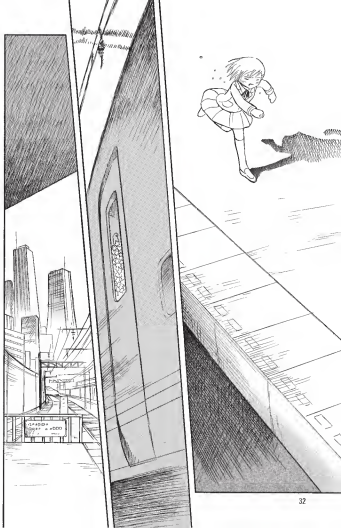


HUFF

HUFF







MISSION:43





This is the
first time
I've
written
such a
letter.



but
I can't
seem to
find
the words.
I keep
rewriting it.

I'm not
sure I can
tell you
in person so
I'm writing
it down
instead,



what
I'm thinking
right now.

Still,
I've tried
my best to
express

I'd been
wanting to

apologize
for what
I said to you
that day.

THOSE
UNIFORMS
MAKE ME
SICK.



making the
time for
marches and
gatherings.

Back then,
I took part
in anti-
rocket
demon-
strations,





The truth is that I wasn't passionate about it.



It was just a collection of individual wills.

But the protests weren't backed by any organization.



and all that went with it.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION IS COMPLETING ITS MISSION...

I'd been indifferent about the space program



It was pretty pathetic.

after someone at Sunflower Garden practically forced me to join.

In fact, I only got involved



that's probably because I tried not to think about anything that reminded me of "The Lion."

And

To escape
all that,

I went
to the
planetarium
every
day.



I was too
shy to
try out
trendy
things or
gossip
with my
classmates.

I was
always
alone at
school
and
at the
orphanage.

Come to
think
of it.



I liked
the
feeling of
security.

I never
felt
alienated
there.



The only
thing they
talked about
there was
the stars.



I even
thought
I preferred
it that way.

Before
I knew it,
I got used
to being
alone.



They didn't know what it was like, but they tried to comfort and talk to me.

HANG IN THERE.

I'M SO SORRY.

SO YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS IN THE CRASH ?

All the anti-rocket protesters knew me as someone who was orphaned by "The Lion."

just pity and sympathy,

I did feel a little of ease with them.

Even if it was



That's where I was when we met.



I'd
never gain
what
you had.

Because
no
matter
how much
I studied,

I realize
I was
just
jealous
of you.

When
I
look
back
now,



wasn't about
resentment
over
but a
desperate
bluff.

"The Lian"
accident,

ROCKETS
ARE
WEAPONS!

What
I
said
next



I started
to see
unbelievable
things
I'd never
seen
before.

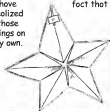
And
once
that chain
came
loose,

As I got
to know you,
I realized
that my
bluff was
meaningless.



I'd never
have
realized
those
things on
my own.

and the
fact that



I started
to notice
people's
kindness
and
warmth

It's humble
compared to
becoming an
astronaut,
but
I found
my own
dream.



As I
struggled
with the
changes
in my
heart,
I
began to
seriously
consider
my own
future.

I might
stumble
along
the
way.

The
realities
there
might be
far harsher
than I
imagine.

People
might
tell me
I'm
being
naive,
but I
want to
hold on
to what
I'm
feeling
now.



I want
to help
other
orphans
like
me.

That's
why I
decided to
volunteer
overseas.

But

I want to
try to be
someone
who goes on,
who looks up,
no matter
what.

On my way
back, though,
I stopped by
Yuigahama.



My main
reason
was a
training
course
for
volunteers.

You heard
that
I'd left
for a bit.

TRIP
?

UH,
NO
...

WERE
YOU
ON A
TRIP?

Even
though
it's my
birthplace,
it felt like
my first
time
there.



I don't
remember
living
there.

I can't
remember
the
accident,
either.

The sky and
the sea at
Yuigahama
were truly
beautiful.

I'd never
simply
sat and
watched
the sea
before.



The sea
was just
steps
from the
station.



and
climbed
the long
stairs
to the
memorial.

I
wandered
the
streets



You'd never
think such
a terrible
accident
had
occurred
there.





I met with
an abbot
who was
classmates
with my mom.
He told me
about my
parents.



At night,
the pain
apparently
got so bad
that I cried
and cried.



When
I was a baby,
my neck
swelled due
to some
illness.



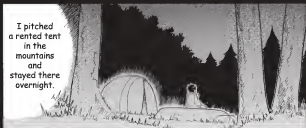
My neck still
feels that
sometimes.
Maybe it's
a vestige of
my days as
that baby.

She would
stroke
my neck
until
morning
without
sleeping.



My mom
was a big
worrier,
he said.

I pitched
a rented tent
in the
mountains
and
stayed there
overnight.



was
really
something.

Yuigahama's
star-studded
sky

You can't
even
compare
it to
the meager
one in
Tokyo.

It's a
gorgeous
night
sky.

I've
heard
that the
country
I'm
headed
to

many
more
pretty
night
skies.

I
might
live to
see



no matter
where
I look up
at stars,



But I
suspect



will always
come back
to me as
the most
beautiful,
and wistful.



the
slightly
smaggy
Tokyo
night
sky



because



will
always
come back
to me



I suspect
the
night sky
I saw
then





They don't talk
about it, but
they all bear
their own
separate
sorrows.



I hope
it's not
impolite
of me to
ask,

but
please
stop by
the
Sunflower
Garden
once
in a
while.



Akane always
sleeps with
that
battle rocket
you made her.



I don't
know
when
we'll meet
next.

I'm not
going to
say
goodbye,
though.



I do
regret
that.

To Asumi Kamogawa

If
we'd met
a little
sooner

we could have
talked about
so many
things...

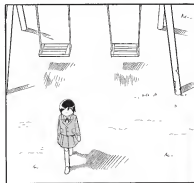
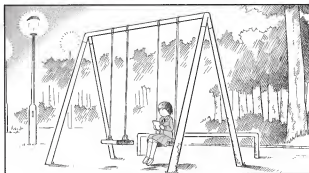
Thank
you—

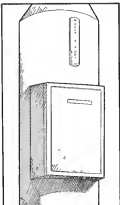
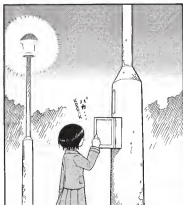
thank
you
so
much.

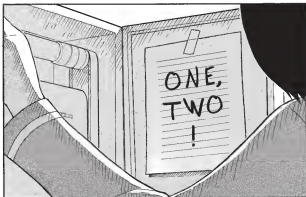
But I am
really lucky
that
I met you.

you'll be
up there
your dream
come true.

I pray
that
when I
look up
at the
starry sky
one day







no matter
where
I look up
at stars,



But I
sus-
pect

will
always
come back
to me



the
slightly
smoggy
Tokyo
night sky
I saw
then

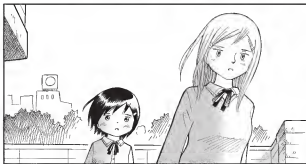
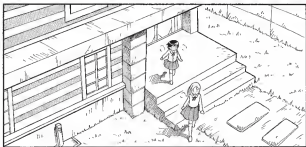


because



you were
by my side.







— 100 ft. —

— 100 ft. —

— 100 ft. —

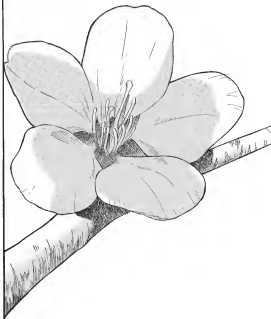
— 100 ft. —

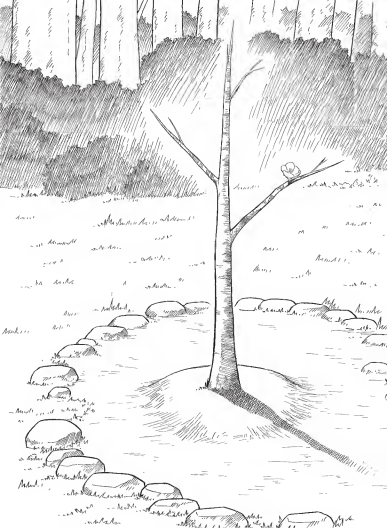
— 100 ft. —

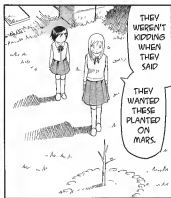
— 100 ft. —

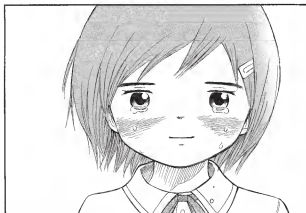
— 100 ft. —

— 100 ft. —







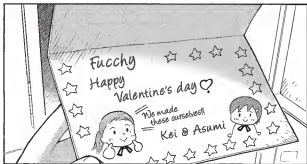














MISSION:44

**ALL COURSES
GENERAL CURRICULUM
SCHEDULE FOR
MAKE-UP EXAMS**

2/27	3/1	3/5	3
			M
English (grammar)	Modern Japanese		S
English (listening)	Japanese History	Classical Japanese	
	World History	Physics	







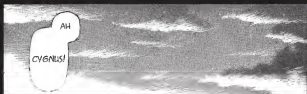






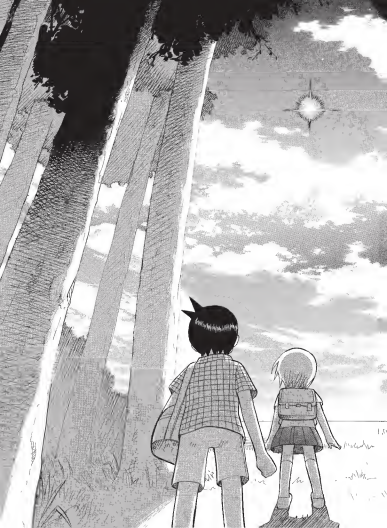




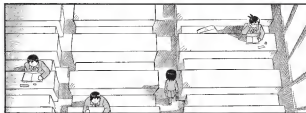
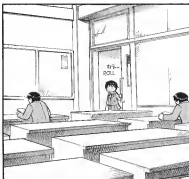




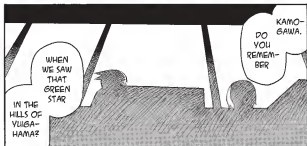




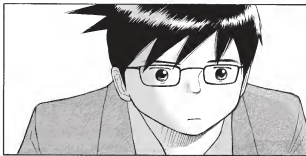


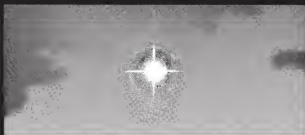
















WHEN I
GROW UP
I'LL BE A
ROCKET
DRIVER
AND
GO TO
OUTER
SPACE

I'LL
LOOK
FOR
IT.

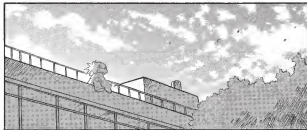
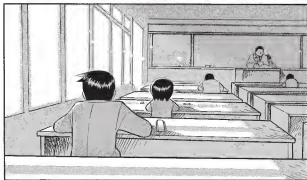
AND
LOOK
FOR
THAT
STAR
WE
SAW.

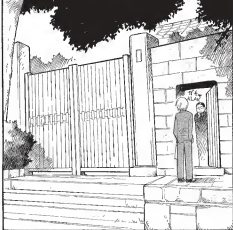


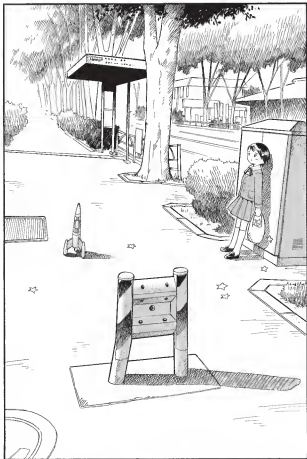
YOU'LL
BE THE
FIRST
PERSON
I TELL.



WHEN
I GO
AND FIND
THE STAR







NEWS!
I'VE GOT
NEWS!

BIG
BIG
BIG
BIG

BIG
NEWS
!!

WE COULD
HEAR YOU
SCREAMING
ALL THE
WAY.

'MORNING,
KEI.

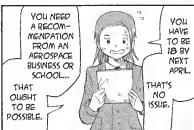
"CALL FOR
ASTRO-
NALITS"
?

I SAW
THIS ON
THE INTERNET
AND PRINTED
IT OUT.

ス
ズ
ス
ズ
ス
ズ

LOOK
AT
THIS!

WHAT
IS IT
?





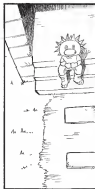


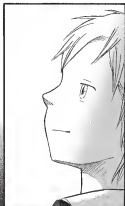




JUST THE FACT THAT THEY'VE BECOME SO IMPORTANT TO YOU













I
WONDER
WHAT
HAD-
PENED
TO HER.

I HEARD
UKITA'S
GIRL HAD
A SIMILAR
ILLNESS.



I CAN'T
SAY.



I...

WANT
TO BE A
DOCTOR.

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT TO BE
WHEN YOU
GROW UP?



YOU WANT
TO BE AN
ASTRONAUT.

NO.

NEVER LIE
ABOUT
YOUR
DREAMS.





DON'T
MAKE
YOUR
NEW
MOTHER
SAD.

DO
YOU
HEAR
ME?



APPEARANCE
IS VERY
IMPORTANT
TO A
POLITICIAN.

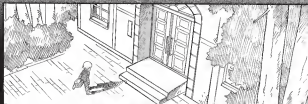
HOW
YOU
LOOK
TO
OTHERS.

YOUR
HAIR IS
TOO
LONG.

GET IT
CUT
TOMOR-
ROW.



START
ACTING LIKE
THE ELDEST
SUZUKI SON!







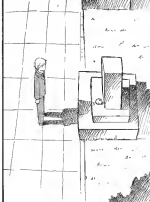


NEVER
LIE ABOUT
YOUR
DREAMS.



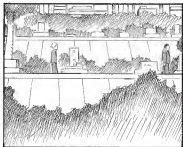








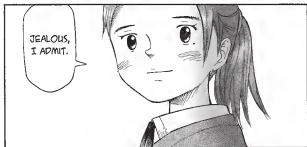












ALL OF US
ARE PRESSING
TOWARDS
OUR DREAMS,

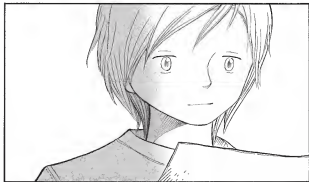
SLOWLY
BUT
SURELY.

HEADING
BACK MAY
NOT BE
AN OPTION,

BUT AS LONG AS
THE STAR BECKONS,
SLOWLY BUT
SURELY
WE PRESS ON.



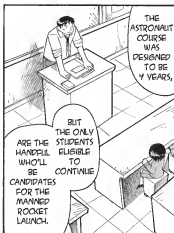
SOON
WE'LL BE
JUNIORS.





MISSION:46







I DON'T THINK
ANY STUDENT
HERE IS
THAT FAR
AHEAD OR
BEHIND
ANYONE ELSE.

YOU STILL
HAVE MANY
OPPORTUNITIES
AHEAD.

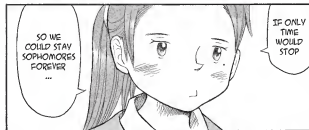
AT YOUR
AGE,
EVERY
DAY IS
MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN
YOU
REALIZE.

IN THE
COMING
YEAR
MAKE
EACH DAY
COUNT.

OUR
LAST
YEAR.

BUT KEEP
FOLLOWING
YOUR DREAM
AND DON'T
GIVE UP.

AND
I KNOW
I'VE TOLD
YOU THIS
BEFORE,











BUT
IT'S ALSO
A LITTLE
SCARY.



GETTING
CLOSER
TO OUR
DREAMS
MAKES US
GLAD,
OR IT
SHOULD,
ANYWAY.



NOW
I
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT SHE
MEANS.



I'VE FELT
THIS WAY.

IT'S THE
FIRST
TIME









TODAY'S
PHYSICAL
ENDURANCE
TEST IS
OVER.

YOUR
ASSIGNMENT
IS A DISCUSSION
AROUND A
GIVEN THEME.

TOMORROW,
YOU WILL BE
PLACED IN
GROUPS OF
10 IN
DESIGNATED
AREAS.

PLEASE
LOOK OVER
THE SHEETS
THAT
WE'RE
HANDING
OUT.

DISCUSSION





THEY MUST
BE TESTING
OUR ABILITY
TO BREAK
THROUGH
A DEADLOCK
AND BE
CREATIVE.

UNFORESEEABLE
THINGS
OCCUR IN
OUTER SPACE.



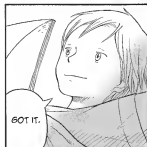
WHAT DOES
A PRISON
BREAK
HAVE TO
DO WITH
BEING AN
ASTRONAUT?



NO, I'M
GOING
TO BED.
I'M
WIRED
OUT.
YAWN



WANNA
STAY UP
AND
THINK OF
A PLAN?



GOT IT.



HA
HA
HA
DON'T
STAY UP
LATE,
SPACE
SCHOOL
KID.

THOUGH
I'M SURE
YOU'RE SUPER
ANXIOUS!



HERE'S
A LUCKY CHARM
SO YOU PASS.

YOU'RE
GOING AWAY
FOR A WEEK
FOR THE TEST,
RIGHT?

THE 4 OF
US TOOK
TURNS
FOLDING
IT.



EVERY-
ONE'S
THOUGHTS
ARE
INSIDE.

DON'T
THINK
IT'S
JUST
AN
ORI-
GAMI
STAR.

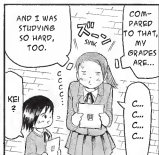
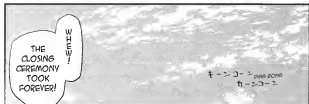


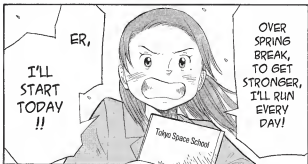
THANKS.

WISH
ON
A
STAR?

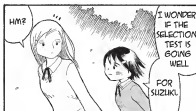












I JUST WANT
ALL OF US
TO STAY
TOGETHER
FOREVER.



IT'S JUST
THAT
I LIKE

KEI AND
MARIKA,

FUCHUVA
AND
SUZUKI.

IT'S JUST
THAT I

REALLY,
REALLY

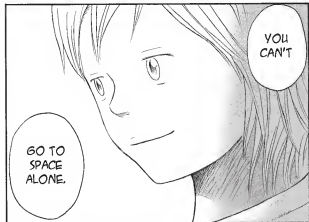
LIKE
THEM.

SO IN
ORDER TO
ESCAPE
FROM
THE CELL,

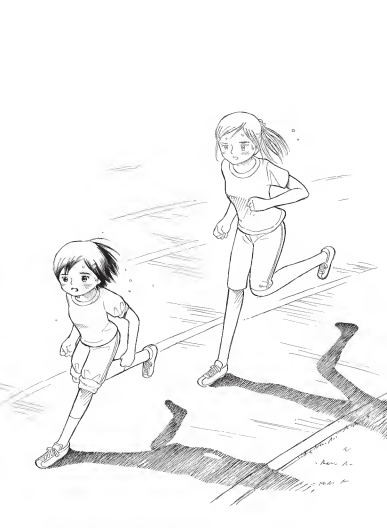
YOU FIND
A WEAK
POINT IN THE
WALL
AND
SCRAPE
AWAY AT
IT WITH
A STONED
FORK
OR SPOON.







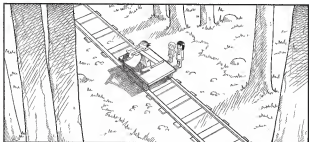


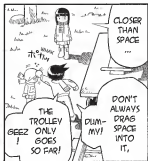




GIOVANNI'S TICKET









Guide to Cherry Blossoms









...SUMI.

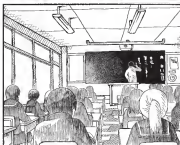


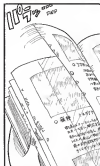
KASUMI!



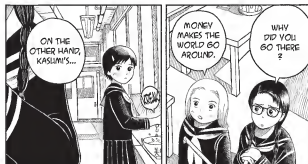
KASUMI
SUZUKI!!

















I CAN'T
DRAW TO
SAVE
MY LIFE.

THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.



I JUST
THINK IT'S
GREAT.

WHERE
DID THAT
COME
FROM?



HUH?

YOU'RE
REALLY
GOOD AT
ART.



PEOPLE
DRAW WELL IF
THEY'RE ALLOWED
TO DRAW WHAT
THEY LIKE.

THAT'S JUST
BECAUSE
YOU'RE BEING
MADE TO
DRAW.



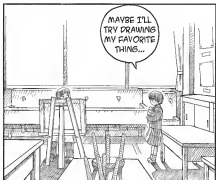
IT'S JUST
THAT I
DRAW
ONLY WHAT
I LIKE.

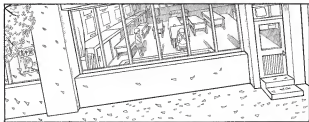


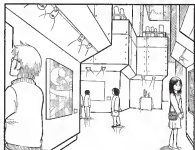
ART IS
TRUTHFUL.
YOUR FEELINGS
COME RIGHT
OUT.

ARE YOU
SURE?

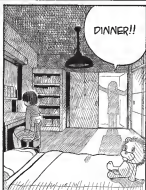
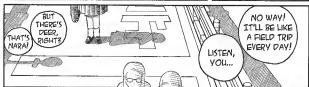






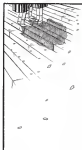




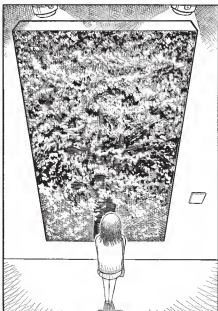












Guide to Cherry



HMM?
KASUMI
SENSEI?



HEY,
I'M THE
JAPANESE
TEACHER!

SORT
OF...

HOW ODD
TO SEE
YOU LOOK
SOMETHING
UP.



MUST BE
AROUND
HERE...



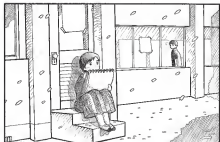
PART-
TIME.

YES.

STAB











IT'S ALREADY
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
SEASON.



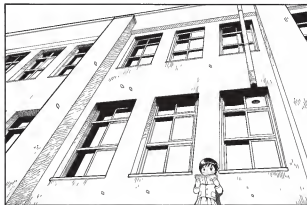
NOW IS
THE BEST
TIME TO
SEE THE
BLOSSOMS
IN TOKYO.



IT'S THE
SEASON FOR
GRADUATION
CEREMONIES
AGAIN.



ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA



But one
Feb. 14,

something
rather
memorable
happened.

Of course,
I've never
experienced
anything
particularly
dramatic
just
because
I was



Having to buy a
thank-you gift for
an obligatory
chocolate
I received on
my birthday
was
pretty
humiliating.



YOU'RE
WORKING
THE LATE
SHIFT ON
THE 14TH?

Since
Miss S was
graduating
college
that spring,
the late
shift on
the 14th
would be
her last.



She'd taught me
all the important
things at work.



This is
Miss S.
She was
my age,
but she'd
been
working
longer.









Notes on the Translation

P. 159

Japanese students are taught to read classic Chinese poetry. Similarities between the two languages don't extend far beyond the shared characters so the lessons can be challenging. The first line of "Spring Dawn," by eighth-century Chinese poet Meng Haoran, reads: "In spring I sleep past dawn." Note that Japanese primary and secondary education follows a 6-3-3 scheme so that ninth grade is the last year of middle school. (At Tokyo Space School, there exists a thirteenth grade for the most qualified students as became clear in this volume.) The academic year begins and ends in spring in Japan, and graduation ceremonies are often associated with cherry blossoms as in this story.



P. 184

St. Valentine's Day is significant in Japan but with a local twist, thanks to the confectionery industry's role in promoting the foreign concept: women (but not men) give *chocolate* to their romantic interests on February 14. Lonely-hearts with neither partners nor fans also receive them, however, from women friends and coworkers in a face-saving gesture. The industry's February sales are spectacular as a result. Recipients are supposed to reciprocate with white-colored sweets on March 14, "White Day," according to the perspicacious marketers.



Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Tomoe Tsutsumi

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Published by Vertical, Inc., New York

Originally published in Japanese as *Futatsu no Supika 9*
by MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., Tokyo 2005
Futatsu no Supika first serialized in Gekkan Comic Flapper,
MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001-2009

This is a work of fiction.

e-ISBN: 978-1-939130-62-4

First Edition

Vertical, Inc.
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New York, NY 10016
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"*Twins Space* is a wonderful coming-of-age tale about people stretched to something greater than themselves. The characters get richer and more complex as the story develops. Along with Asami, our vision of the world she lives in expands, too... I pick up each volume as it comes out and keep hoping to see Asami finally make it into space." —*Comics Worth Reading*

